

STATE OF INDIANA OFFICE OF THE TREASURER INDIANAPOLIS

Tim Berry Treasurer of State

> Ms. Marlene Dortch Secretary Federal Communications Commission 445 Twelfth Street Washington, D.C. 20554

Attention: FCC Doc# 03-167

August 1, 2003

Dear Ms. Dortch:

As Indiana's Treasurer, I urge the Federal Communications Commission to authorize SBC to provide long distance service in our state.

I work with citizens and communities throughout Indiana. Everywhere I go, people want more services at lower prices, particularly in rural areas and smaller communities. The most powerful force to create opportunity and prosperity for citizens is the free market. If the FCC approves SBC's application to offer long distance service, it will increase competitive pressures for companies to offer advanced communications services. The resulting privately funded infrastructure improvements will enhance the ability of entrepreneurs, educators, public servants, and citizens to build more vibrant and productive communities throughout Indiana.

SBC provides basic telephone service to thousands of Hoosier households and businesses and offers a broad range of enhanced telecommunications products. Allowing SBC to add long distance calling to its range of services will broaden the options available to SBC's customers and will increase the competition that is already forcing companies to innovate, reduce prices, and improve products. Indiana's entire economy will benefit if the Commission approves SBC's application to provide long distance service.

Sincerely,

Tim Berry

Treasurer of State